

Maximizing Peptide Identification Events in Proteomic Workflows Using Data-Dependent Acquisition (DDA)*[§]

Nicholas W. Bateman^{‡¶¶}, Scott P. Goulding^{‡§¶¶}, Nicholas J. Shulman[¶],
Avinash K. Gadok[‡], Karen K. Szumlinski^{||}, Michael J. MacCoss[¶],
and Christine C. Wu^{‡§**}

Current analytical strategies for collecting proteomic data using data-dependent acquisition (DDA) are limited by the low analytical reproducibility of the method. Proteomic discovery efforts that exploit the benefits of DDA, such as providing peptide sequence information, but that enable improved analytical reproducibility, represent an ideal scenario for maximizing measureable peptide identifications in “shotgun”-type proteomic studies. Therefore, we propose an analytical workflow combining DDA with retention time aligned extracted ion chromatogram (XIC) areas obtained from high mass accuracy MS1 data acquired in parallel. We applied this workflow to the analyses of sample matrixes prepared from mouse blood plasma and brain tissues and observed increases in peptide detection of up to 30.5% due to the comparison of peptide MS1 XIC areas following retention time alignment of co-identified peptides. Furthermore, we show that the approach is quantitative using peptide standards diluted into a complex matrix. These data revealed that peptide MS1 XIC areas provide linear response of over three orders of magnitude down to low femtomole (fmol) levels. These findings argue that augmenting “shotgun” proteomic workflows with retention time alignment of peptide identifications and comparative analyses of corresponding peptide MS1 XIC areas improve the analytical performance of global proteomic discovery methods using DDA. *Molecular & Cellular Proteomics* 13: 10.1074/mcp.M112.026500, 329–338, 2014.

Label-free methods in mass spectrometry-based proteomics, such as those used in common “shotgun” proteomic studies, provide peptide sequence information as well as

relative measurements of peptide abundance (1–3). A common data acquisition strategy is based on data-dependent acquisition (DDA)¹ where the most abundant precursor ions are selected for tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) analysis (1–2). DDA attempts to minimize redundant peptide precursor selection and maximize the depth of proteome coverage (2). However, the analytical reproducibility of peptide identifications obtained using DDA-based methods result in <75% overlap between technical replicates (3–4). Comparisons of peptide identifications between replicate analyses have shown that the rate of new peptide identifications increases sharply following two replicate sample injections and gradually tapers off after approximately five replicate injections (4). This phenomenon is due, in part, to the semirandom sampling of peptides in a DDA experiment (5).

Alternate label-free methods focused on measuring the abundance of intact peptide ions, such as the accurate mass and time tag (AMT) approach (6–8, 42), are aimed at differential analyses of extracted ion chromatogram (XIC) areas integrated from high mass accuracy peptide precursor mass spectra (MS1 spectra) exhibiting discrete chromatographic elution times. This method is particularly powerful for the analysis of post-translationally modified (PTM) peptides as pairing the low abundance of PTM candidates with the variable nature of DDA complicates comparisons between samples (9, 43). However, label-free strategies focused on the analysis of peptide MS1 XIC areas are dependent on *a priori* knowledge of peptide ions and retention times (2–10). Thus,

From the [‡]Department of Cell Biology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15261; [§]Neuroscience Program, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colorado 80045; [¶]Department of Genome Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195; ^{||}Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, 93106, USA

Received December 6, 2012, and in revised form, May 30, 2013

Published, MCP Papers in Press, July 2, 2013, DOI 10.1074/mcp.M112.026500

¹ The abbreviations used are: DDA, data-dependent acquisition; XIC, extracted ion chromatogram; MS1, precursor mass spectra; MS/MS, tandem mass spectrometry; AMT, accurate mass and time tag; PTM, posttranslationally modified; v/v, volume/volume; IAA, 2-iodoacetamide; FA, formic acid; Hgb, hemoglobin; nLC-MS/MS, nano-liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry; i.d., inner diameter; o.d., outer diameter; R, resolution; HCD, higher-energy collisional dissociation; ppm, parts per million; K, lysine; R, arginine; CV, coefficient of variation; PSD95, postsynaptic density protein-95; NMDA, N-methyl-D-aspartate; mGluR1A, metabotropic glutamate receptor 1 A; DGL- α , Sn1-specific diacylglycerol lipase α ; Cp, ceruloplasmin; Cfd, complement factor D; ApoE, lipoprotein scavenger apolipoprotein E; KO, knockout; WT, wild-type; HL, hemolysis.

prospective analyses of samples are needed to assess peptides and their respective retention times. This prospective analysis may not be possible for reagent-limited samples. Further, the usage of previously established peptide features in the analysis of different sample types can be confounded by unknown matrix effects that can produce variable retention time characteristics and peptide ion suppression (2). Therefore, proteomic strategies that make use of DDA, to provide peptide sequence information and identify features within the sample, but that also use MS1 data for comparisons between samples, represent an ideal combination for maximizing measureable peptide identification events in “shotgun” proteomic discovery analyses.

Here we describe an analytical workflow that combines traditional DDA methods with the analysis of retention time aligned XIC areas extracted from high mass accuracy peptide precursor MS1 spectra. This method resulted in a 25.1% ($\pm 6.6\%$) increase in measureable peptide identification events across samples of diverse composition because of the inferential extraction of peptide MS1 XIC areas in sample sets lacking corresponding MS/MS events. These findings were observed in measurements of peptide MS1 XIC abundances using sample types ranging from tryptic digests of olfactory bulb tissues dissected from *Homer2* knockout and wild-type mice to mouse blood plasma exhibiting differential levels of hemolysis. We further establish that this method is quantitative using a dilution series of known bovine standard peptide concentrations spiked into mouse blood plasma. These data show that comparative analysis between samples should be performed using peptide MS1 data as opposed to semirandomly sampled peptide MS/MS data. This approach maximizes the number of peptides that can be compared between samples.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Preparation of a Dilution Series of Bovine Peptide Standard in Mouse Blood Plasma Peptide Digests—The concentration of protein in commercial mouse blood plasma (D408–04-0050, Rockland Immunochemicals, Inc. Gilbertsville, PA) was determined using the DC Protein Assay (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) and equivalent amounts of protein were immunodepleted using a MARS-mouse 3 column (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA). Briefly, 1.0 mg of total plasma protein was diluted in depletion Buffer A to 5.0 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$, centrifuged for 1 min at 14,000 rpm/4 °C in a 5417R refrigerated microcentrifuge (Eppendorf, Hauppauge, NY), filtered through a 0.22 μm spin filter by centrifugation at 5000 rpm/4 °C for 5 min, and immunodepleted as per manufacturers recommendations. Depleted plasma proteins were extracted by methanol/chloroform precipitation (11), solubilized in 0.2% *RapiGest* SF Surfactant (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA) in 25 mM ammonium bicarbonate before being heated for 5 min at 100 °C and diluted to 0.1% *RapiGest*. Reactive cysteines were reduced by addition of 5.0 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) and incubating at 60 °C for 30 min followed by alkylation in 15 mM 2-iodoacetamide (IAA) at room temperature for 30 min under darkness. Porcine sequencing grade modified trypsin endoproteinase (Promega Corporation, Madison, WI) was added at a 1:100 enzyme to protein ratio and samples were incubated at 37 °C overnight. *RapiGest* was hydrolyzed in 120 mM hydrochloric acid and samples were centrifuged 3×45

min at 14,000 rpm/4 °C to remove insoluble precipitates. Resulting peptide digests were desalted using an offline Pierce C-18 spin column (Thermo Scientific, Rockford, IL) as per manufacturers recommendations and lyophilized peptides were resuspended at a concentration of 0.2 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ in 0.1% (v/v) formic acid (FA). A commercial tryptic digest of six bovine proteins mixed at equal molar concentrations (Bruker-Michrome, Auburn, CA) was diluted to 0.2 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ in 0.1% (v/v) FA and a dilution series was produced in digested mouse plasma. A six point dilution curve corresponding to (1) 0.2 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$, (2) 0.15 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$, (3) 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$, (4) 0.05 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$, (5) 0.025 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$, and (6) 0.002 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ of bovine peptides in a constant matrix of 0.2 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ mouse plasma digest was generated.

Preparation of a Synaptic Density Fraction From Olfactory Bulb Digests Harvested From *Homer2* Knockout and Wild-type Mice—Olfactory bulb tissue was dissected from three *Homer2* knockout (129/Sv X C57BL/6) (12) and three wild-type male mice obtained from Dr. Karen K. Szumlanski (University of California, Santa Barbara) and subjected to a modified postsynaptic density enrichment strategy previously described by Phillips *et al.* (13–14). Briefly, olfactory bulbs were pooled according to genotype and homogenized using a 15 ml Potter-Elvehjem tissue grinder with PTFE pestle (Wheaton Science Products, Millville, NJ) over wet ice in 3 ml of a 0.32 M sucrose solution containing 0.1 mM CaCl_2 , 1 mM MgCl_2 , and 1X phosphatase inhibitor mixture (Halt Phosphatase Inhibitor Mixture, Thermo Scientific, Rockford, IL). The homogenate was brought to a working concentration of 1.25 M sucrose via the addition of 17 ml of a sucrose solution containing 0.1 mM CaCl_2 and 1X phosphatase inhibitor mixture, overlaid with 10 ml of a 1.0 M sucrose solution containing 0.1 mM CaCl_2 , and centrifuged at $100,000 \times g/4$ °C for 3 h in a Sorvall WX90 Ultracentrifuge (Thermo Scientific, Rockford, IL). Synaptosomes (~1 ml) were collected from the 1.0/1.25 M interface and incubated for 30 min in 10 ml of 20 mM Tris-buffered saline containing 1% Triton X-100 at pH 6. Samples were then centrifuged at $40,000 \times g/4$ °C, supernatants were decanted, and pellets were incubated in 1 ml of a second buffer containing 20 mM Tris-buffered saline and 1% Triton X-100 at pH 8. Samples were centrifuged at $40,000 \times g/4$ °C in a Sorvall MTX 150 Micro-Ultracentrifuge (Thermo Scientific, Rockford, IL) to obtain enriched synaptic density pellets. Tryptic digests of synaptic density proteins were prepared identically to methods described above except samples were solubilized in 0.2% *RapiGest* containing 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate and subjected to a cleanup step using Agilent cleanup C-18 pipette tips (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) according to manufacturer's recommendations. Lyophilized peptides were resuspended at a final concentration of 0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ in 0.1% (v/v) FA. Further, peptide identifications (method detailed below) corresponding to cutaneous keratins were removed from this sample set resulting in a loss of 1.31% of total peptide identifications.

Preparation of Hemolyzed Blood Plasma Digests—Hemolysates were prepared from a 1:4 mixture of whole blood obtained by cardiac puncture of a C57BL/6 mouse and commercial mouse plasma (Rockland Immunochemicals, Inc. Gilbertsville, PA). Blood plasma mixtures were subjected to (1) gentle shaking by hand for 30 s to emulate excessive mixing of blood samples post-collection (15–16) (low hemolysis condition) or (2) sampling of the supernatant and a fraction of the blood cell pellet emulating poor separator barrier integrity (15) following centrifugation (high hemolysis condition). Blood plasma was prepared by centrifuging whole blood mixtures for 10 min at 5000 rpm/4 °C in a 5417R refrigerated microcentrifuge (Eppendorf, Hauppauge, NY) and 0.1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF, Thermo Scientific, Rockford, IL) was then added to plasma supernatants before storage at –80 °C. The extent of hemolysis was determined by direct spectrophotometric measurement of hemoglobin (Hgb) concentration as per the All method detailed by Fairbanks *et al.* (17) using an Epoch Microplate Spectrophotometer (BioTek, Winooski, VT).

Plasma samples were immunodepleted on a MARS-mouse 3 column and quantitated by DC protein assay as described above. Twenty micrograms of depleted protein was run ~2.0 cm into a 5.0% bis-acrylamide stacking gel and processed for in-gel digestion as previously described (18) using 5 mM DTT in 25 mM ammonium bicarbonate and incubation at 60 °C and 15 mM IAA in 25 mM ammonium bicarbonate for reduction and alkylation of reactive cysteine residues, respectively. Lyophilized peptides were resuspended at a final concentration of 0.2 µg/µl in 0.1% (v/v) FA.

nLC-MS/MS Analyses—Peptide digests corresponding to the bovine/mouse plasma dilution series or *Homer2* knockout and wild-type olfactory bulb tissues were resolved by nLC-MS/MS using an EASY-nLC II (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA) coupled online via electrospray ionization (ESI) to an Orbitrap Elite mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA). Randomized, triplicate injections of 1.0 µg of peptide extracts were resolved on a 75 µm i.d. by 360 µm o.d. by 300 mm long fused silica capillary column (Polymicro Technologies, Phoenix, AZ) slurry-packed in-house with 5 µm particle size, 125 Å pore size C-18 silica-bonded stationary phase (phenomenex, Torrance, CA). After sample injection, peptides were eluted from the column using a gradient of 2% mobile phase B (99.9% (v/v) acetonitrile (ACN)/0.1% (v/v) FA) to 12% mobile phase B over 60 min stepping up to 32% mobile phase B for an additional 60 min at a constant flow rate of 200 nL/min followed by a column wash consisting of 80% mobile phase B for an additional 6 min. The column used for olfactory bulb tissues was heated to 40 °C. The Orbitrap Elite mass spectrometer was configured to collect high resolution ($R = 60,000$ at m/z 400) broadband mass spectra (m/z 400–1400) from which the ten most abundant peptide molecular ions, dynamically determined from the MS1 scan, were selected for MS/MS using a relative collision-induced dissociation (CID) energy of 35%. Peptide digests from differentially hemolyzed blood plasma were resolved by nLC on a 75 µm i.d. by 360 µm o.d. by 250 mm long fused silica capillary column as described above, but coupled online via ESI to a Q Exactive mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA). After sample injection, peptides were eluted from the column using a linear gradient of 2% to 42% mobile phase B over 120 min at a constant flow rate of 250 nL/min followed by a column wash consisting of 80% mobile phase B for an additional 10 min. The Q Exactive mass spectrometer was configured to collect high resolution ($R = 70,000$ at m/z 200) broadband mass spectra (m/z 400–1400) and MS/MS events ($R = 17,500$ at an automatic gain control target of 2.0×10^5 and an underfill ratio of 20%) on the five most abundant peptide molecular ions dynamically determined from the MS1 scan using a relative higher-energy collisional dissociation (HCD) energy of 35%. A default dynamic exclusion setting was used to minimize redundant selection of peptides.

Peptide Identification and Differential Analysis of Peptide MS1 XIC Areas—Peptide identifications were obtained by searching nLC-MS/MS RAW file data using a pipeline that consisted of extraction of MS1 and MS2 data (MakeMS2, version 2.28) (19), Bullseye/Hardklör (version 1.25) (20) at default values, and searching with SEQUEST (version 27) (21) against a UniProt-derived mouse proteome database obtained from the European Bioinformatics Institute (version 12/2011; 23,412 protein entries) or a modified mouse proteome database including the six bovine standard proteins (sequences derived directly from bovine standard specification sheet, Bruker-Michrome, Auburn, CA) using the following parameters: trypsin (KR); two missed cleavage sites; 10 ppm precursor mass tolerance, 0.36 amu fragment ion tolerance, and static modifications for cysteine carboxyamidomethylation (m/z of 57.02146). Resulting peptide identifications were processed by Percolator which used decoy search results obtained from a randomized database (22). Filtered search results with a peptide spectrum match, q -value ≤ 0.01 , equivalent to a false discovery rate

of $\leq 1.0\%$, were used in downstream analyses (supplemental Tables S1A–S1C). Retention time alignment and extraction of MS1 spectra was performed using a Percolator output file (perc.xml), SEQUEST search result files (SQT), and RAW data files in a prototype version of Topograph (version 0.0.0.259) (23). Note: these capabilities will be available in versions 1.3 or greater of Skyline (24). Retention time information for peptide identifications was extracted from SQT files corresponding to any peptide observed with a q -value ≤ 0.01 across sample sets. Sample sets were aligned using an iterative strategy fitting a straight line through peptide retention time features (25) across sample sets until a Pearson score of $R^2 > 0.99$ was achieved. XIC areas for peptide MS1 spectra were integrated at mass tolerances of 20 ppm using retention time windows of ± 5.0 min surrounding initial peptide identification events. Deconvolution scores were then calculated for integration events, reflecting the fit of theoretical peptide isotope distributions to observed experimental MS1 spectra (23, 26). Peptide MS1 XIC data that was successfully integrated, as defined by whether a MS1 peak corresponding to the theoretical peptide mass derived from the MS/MS identification was integrated within the retention time window surrounding said MS/MS event, were then exported for further analysis (supplemental Tables S2A–S2C). Individual peptide MS1 XIC areas for a given sample injection were normalized relative to the maximum sum of the total peptide MS1 XIC areas observed across all injections in a sample cohort. Significant, differentially abundant peptides were calculated using a two-tailed Student's t test assuming equal variance. Resulting p -values were converted to q -values using the R software program TkQVALUE (27) and differential peptide abundances exhibiting q -values ≤ 0.05 that were successfully integrated across three replicate injections and a minimum of two injections in a comparison condition were considered significant.

Data Availability—We have made all RAW mass spectrometry data files publicly available as part of the CHORUS Project (<http://chorusproject.org>). The data is divided into three experiments in CHORUS with separate download links:

1. For the quantitative analysis of bovine standards in mouse plasma: <http://chorusproject.org/anonymous/download/experiment/3255715714815506877>
2. Differential analysis of a synaptic density fraction from *Homer2* knockout and wild-type olfactory bulb digests: <http://chorusproject.org/anonymous/download/experiment/-8051442394485890954>
3. Differential analysis of hemolyzed mouse plasma: <http://chorusproject.org/anonymous/download/experiment/-1023687155871353777>

All of the MS/MS search results from our SEQUEST search pipeline can be queried from the Yeast Resource Center Public Data Repository at: http://www.yeastrc.org/pdr/max_peptide/.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis workflow used is detailed in Fig. 1. All samples were subjected to a typical DDA workflow consisting of tryptic digestion of complex samples matrixes, nLC-MS/MS analysis of peptide digests, and subsequent identification of peptides using established bioinformatic pipelines. XIC areas for peptide MS1 spectra corresponding to peptide identification events were then extracted from corresponding RAW data files using a two-step process (Fig. 1). First, sample sets were aligned using an iterative strategy fitting a straight line through retention times observed for peptides co-identified between nLC-MS/MS runs (Fig. 1A). The peptide furthest from the best fit linear fit of the two runs was removed and the

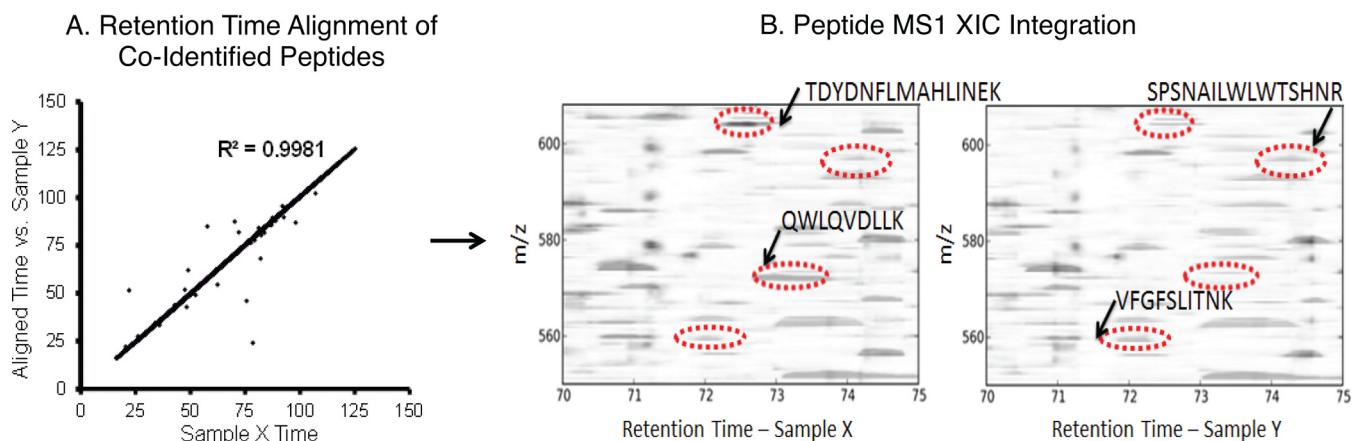


FIG. 1. Analytical workflow for differential analysis of peptide MS1 XIC data. A, Retention time alignment was performed iteratively for peptides co-identified across sample sets. Retention time of peptides identified in example sample set X were aligned with retention time for peptides co-identified in example sample set Y until an $R^2 > 0.99$ was achieved. B, Peptide MS1 XIC areas were then integrated for peptides identified and/or inferred across all sample sets. Pseudo-2D gel images of nLC-MS/MS data depicts peptides independently identified in example sample sets X and Y (arrows) and corresponding peptide MS1 XIC areas integrated (red circles) between both sample sets following retention time alignment of co-identified peptides.

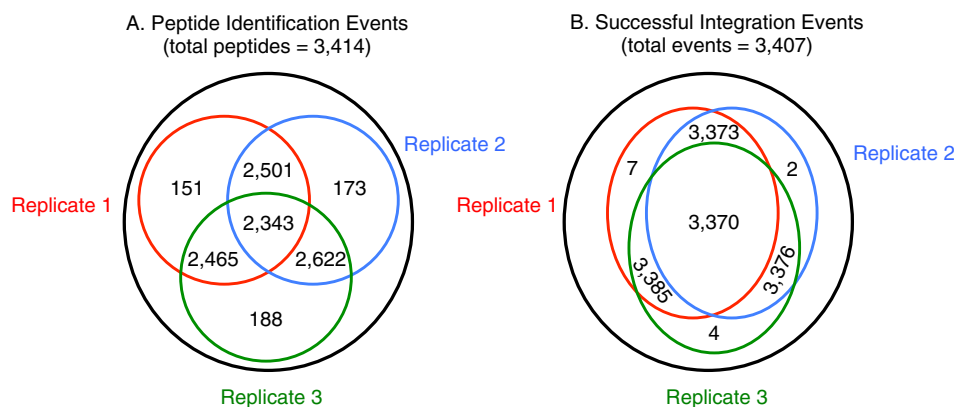


FIG. 2. Comparison of peptide identification events versus successful peptide MS1 XIC integration events across a representative set of technical replicate injections. Three-way Venn diagrams detailing overlapping peptide identification events (A) versus successfully integrated, retention time aligned peptide MS1 XIC areas (B) across a set of three technical replicate injections of tryptic digests derived from highly hemolyzed mouse blood plasma. These results revealed a 30.5% increase in the number of measurable peptide events co-identified across replicate injections.

linear regression repeated. This process was performed iteratively until a Pearson score of $R^2 > 0.99$ was obtained. Second, peptide MS1 XIC areas were integrated within retention time windows of ± 5.0 min surrounding a given MS/MS event and restricted to a 20 ppm mass tolerance relative to theoretical masses obtained from peptide identification results (Fig. 1B). Resulting peptide MS1 XIC areas were then statistically compared to assess significantly altered peptides.

Representative results of this pipeline when applied to triplicate replicate injections of highly hemolyzed mouse blood plasma are showed in Fig. 2. These results illustrate a 30.5% increase in the number of measureable peptide events identified between replicate sample injections based on successfully integrated, retention time aligned peptide MS1 XIC areas versus peptide identifications events alone (p -value = $5.8E-5$

for increases in peptides co-identified between technical replicates).

Quantitation of Bovine Standard Peptides Diluted in Mouse Blood Plasma—A six-point dilution curve of tryptic peptides derived from an equimolar mix of six bovine proteins was diluted into a tryptic digest of immunodepleted mouse plasma. Samples were subjected to nLC-MS/MS analysis in triplicate where total bovine peptides analyzed on-column ranged from $1.0 \mu\text{g}$ to $0.01 \mu\text{g}$ (equivalent to $\sim 250 - 2.5$ fmol) in a constant matrix of $1.0 \mu\text{g}$ bovine/mouse plasma digest mix. A total of 588 peptides were identified for all six bovine standard proteins across all sample runs and analysis of peptide MS1 XIC areas were performed for 560 of these candidates (reflecting a loss of 4.8% because of unsuccessful peak integration events). Peptide MS1 XIC areas calculated

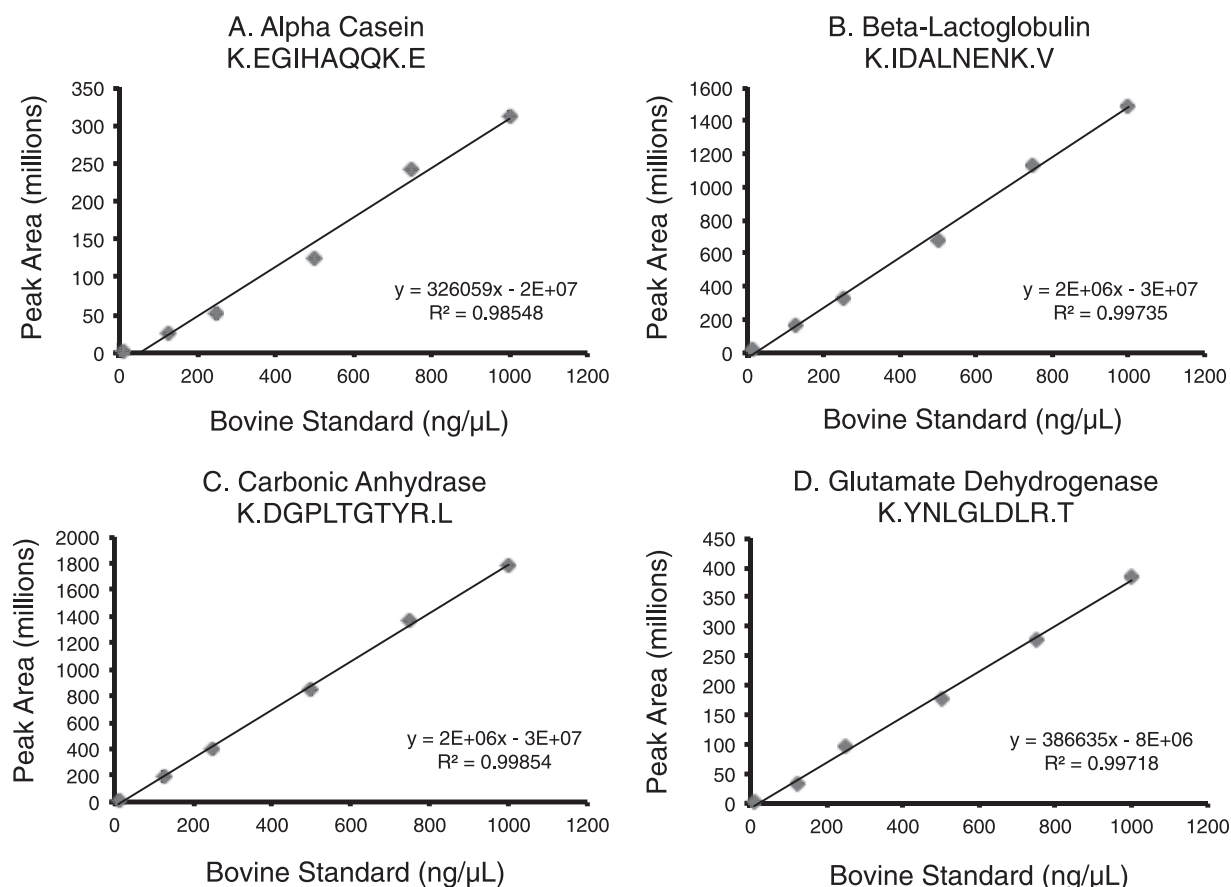


FIG. 3. Quantitative analysis of bovine peptide MS1 XIC areas in a dilution series of six equimolar bovine standard proteins in immunodepleted mouse blood plasma. Plots of peptide MS1 XIC areas versus bovine standard concentration across a six-point dilution series for four representative bovine standard peptides corresponding to alpha casein (A), beta-lactoglobulin (B), carbonic anhydrase (C), and glutamate dehydrogenase (D). Results revealed that bovine standard peptides diluted in immunodepleted mouse blood plasma are quantifiable to low fmol ranges. Mean $R^2 = 0.9 \pm 0.33$ for all bovine peptides analyzed.

for representative peptides corresponding to four bovine proteins, *i.e.* alpha casein (IPI00706094 & IPI00698843, 62 peptides identified, 58.9% sequence coverage), beta-lactoglobulin (gi 2194089, 70 peptides, 59.2% sequence coverage), carbonic anhydrase (IPI00716246, 143 peptides, 81.8% sequence coverage), and glutamate dehydrogenase (gi 118533, 105 peptides, 55.1% sequence coverage) are detailed in Fig. 3. These data revealed that peptide MS1 XIC areas can be detected linearly and quantitatively to low fmol levels (mean $R^2 = 0.994 \pm 0.006$). Analysis of linear dilutions corresponding to peptides identified for all six bovine proteins, including lactoperoxidase (gi 129823, 119 peptides, 42.4% sequence coverage) and serum albumin (gi 1351907, 86 peptides, 43.6% sequence coverage) revealed mean Pearson scores of $R^2 = 0.9 \pm 0.33$ with over 88.0% ± 3.2 of peptides exhibiting an $R^2 > 0.90$ (supplemental Table S3). Peptides with quantitation curves reflecting a linear response of $R^2 > 0.90$ correspond to fmol peptide abundances spanning three orders of magnitude. These data provide evidence to support that this analytical strategy is quantitative.

Differential Analysis of a Synaptic Density Fraction From Homer2 Knockout and Wild-type Olfactory Bulb Digests—This sample set provided a complex sample matrix that was used to test the robustness of this analytical workflow in identifying peptides with altered abundances in the absence of Homer2, a postsynaptic density scaffolding protein (28). Triplicate injections of pooled olfactory bulb tissues dissected from a cohort of *Homer2* knockout and wild-type mice resulted in a total of 11,973 peptide identifications (7857 ± 395 ; CV = 5.03%, across technical replicate injections) with 8713 of these candidates being identified between sample sets. Comparison of the peptide MS1 XIC areas was possible for 11,971 of these events ($11,847 \pm 65$; CV = 0.55%) and yielded a total of 11,953 events being detected between sample sets. This resulted in a 27.1% increase in measureable peptide identification events to be used for differential analyses across sample sets, corresponding to 99.8% of total peptides identified between samples (Fig. 4A).

A total of 529 peptides (4.4% of total identifications) were differentially abundant between knockout and wild-type sam-

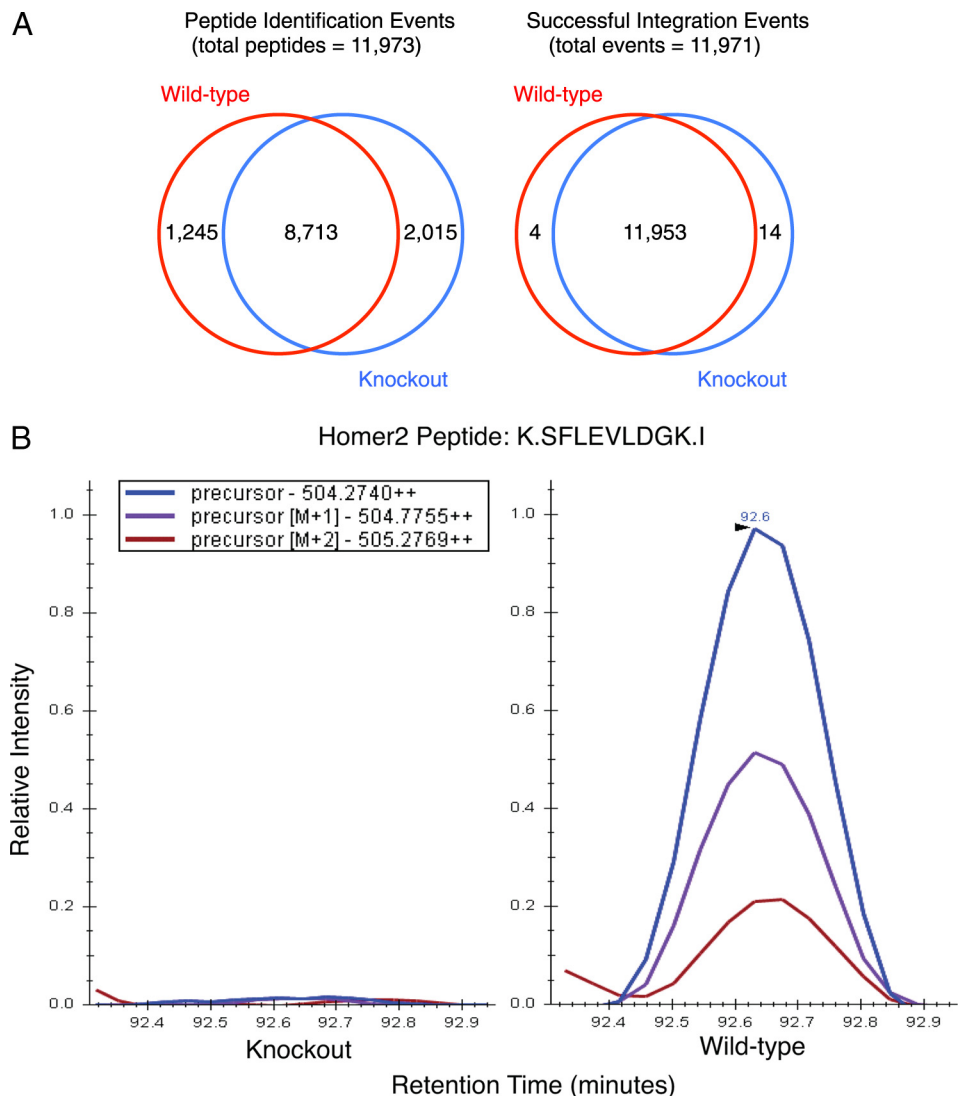


FIG. 4. Peptide identification events versus successfully integrated peptide MS1 XIC areas following comparative proteomic analyses of olfactory bulb synaptic density proteins obtained from *Homer2* knockout and wild-type mice. A, Two-way Venn diagrams detailing overlapping peptide identification events (left) versus successfully integrated, retention time aligned peptide MS1 XIC areas (right) across three technical replicate injections of tryptic digests derived from *Homer2* knockout and wild-type olfactory bulb synaptic density tissues. These data resulted in a 27.1% increase in the number of measurable peptide events co-identified across replicate injections. B, Knockout and wild-type peptide MS1 XIC areas for a successfully integrated, representative *Homer2* peptide plotted using Skyline software (24).

ples ($q \leq 0.05$), Supplemental Table 4). Interestingly, only 4.8% of the peptides exclusively identified in *Homer2* knockout or wild-type samples (1630 peptides ± 544) were among these proteins (79 ± 23), highlighting the value of comparing retention time aligned peptide MS1 XIC areas versus peptide identification events when considering presence/absence scenarios. The top ten significantly increased and decreased peptides in wild-type versus *Homer2* knockout are detailed in Table I. Several *Homer2* peptides were identified as being the most significantly abundant peptides in wild-type samples; representative peptide MS1 XIC for a *Homer2* peptide identified in wild-type versus knockout samples is shown in Fig. 4B. Within the population of peptides exhibiting differential

abundance, several candidates corresponding to previously identified *Homer2* (29–30) interacting proteins involved in neurotransmission and dendritic spine morphology were observed. With respect to glutamatergic signaling, differential analysis revealed a decrease in the abundance of peptides corresponding to postsynaptic density protein-95 (PSD95, Q62108), an N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor anchoring protein in knockout samples. This analysis also revealed decreases in the metabotropic glutamate receptor 1 A (mGluR1A, P97772–1), an integral membrane protein and *Homer2* binding partner responsible for several second messenger activities (31–33). The abundance of Sn1-specific diacylglycerol lipase alpha (DGL-alpha, Q6WQJ1), an enzyme im-

TABLE I

Top ten differentially abundant peptide MS1 XIC areas following comparative proteomic analyses of olfactory bulb synaptic density proteins harvested from Homer2 knockout and wild-type mice

Positive and negative Log₂ values denote peptides increased or decreased in wild-type samples, respectively. Table I is organized as follows: (Peptide), peptide sequence identified; (UniProt ID), UniProt protein accession; (Protein Name), protein description; and (Log₂ WT:KO), details the log₂ fold change ratios of peptide MS1 XIC abundances in wild-type versus knockout samples.

Peptide	UniProt ID	Protein Name	Log ₂ WT:KO
R.SKIEELEQCSEINR.E	Q9QWW1	Homer protein homolog 2	6.17
R.LTTALQESAASVEQWK.R	Q9QWW1	Homer protein homolog 2	6.12
R.RIEELESEVR.D	Q9QWW1	Homer protein homolog 2	5.83
K.SFLEVLDGK.I	Q9QWW1	Homer protein homolog 2	5.73
K.EITQLQAEITK.L	O35668	Huntington-associated protein 1	4.50
R.IEELESEVR.D	Q9QWW1	Homer protein homolog 2	3.21
K.STVSIEEAVAKEEESLK.L	P20357	Microtubule-associated protein 2	2.16
R.ICNQVLVCER.K	Q9Z219	Succinyl-CoA ligase [ADP-forming] subunit beta, mitochondrial	2.06
R.SAQDLSDVSTDEVGIPLR.N	G62417	Sorbin and SH3 domain-containing protein 1	1.96
R.AHVFQIDPSTK.K	Q9QWW1	Homer protein homolog 2	1.94
K.GGCEAIVDTGTSLLVGPVEEVK.E	P18242	Cathepsin D	-3.09
R.EQWSNCPITGQIR.D	P10605	Cathepsin B	-3.46
K.LQSLEQEK.G	Q6R891	Neurabin-2	-3.94
K.NIFSFYLR.D	P18242	Cathepsin D	-4.22
R.LCEGVGAVNVCVSSSR.G	E9Q1Y9	Uncharacterized protein	-4.39
K.TAEENLDR.R	A2AQR0	Glycerol phosphate dehydrogenase 2, mitochondrial	-4.57
Q.RRADQLADESLESTR.R	P60879	Synaptosomal-associated protein 25	-5.35
R.TAAENEFVVLK.K	Q6IME9	Keratin, type II cytokeletal 72	-6.86
K.QELDLLLR.A	A2BFA6	Alpha-N-acetylglucosaminidase (Sanfilippo disease IIIB)	-7.55
H.CTRPICEPCR.R	A0PK51	Krtap2-4 protein	-8.84

plicated in Homer2-mediated retrograde endocannabinoid signaling (34), was also decreased in knockout samples. These studies further revealed a change in abundance of peptides (q -value ≤ 0.05) corresponding to two Homer2-interacting proteins previously shown to govern dendritic spine morphogenesis, dynamin-3 (Q8BZ98) (32, 35) and drebrin (Q9QXS6). Together, these analyses showed that several peptides corresponding to Homer2 and known Homer2-interacting proteins are differentially abundant in wild-type versus knockout tissue. These results demonstrate the ability of our analytical pipeline to identify peptides candidates anticipated to be differentially abundant in complex sample matrix with altered abundances of Homer2.

Differential Analysis of Hemolyzed Mouse Blood Plasma— This sample set represents high complexity peptide matrixes differing in the levels of red blood cell hemolysis. We compared two plasma samples, one with low hemolysis (0.021 g/L hemoglobin (Hgb) and the other high hemolysis (0.182 g/L Hgb). Hemolysis is produced by the lysis of red blood cells and the subsequent release of Hgb resulting in reddish blood plasma (16). Hemolysis can occur *in vivo* because of disease processes, such as hemolytic anemia (16, 36), as well as *in vitro* because of sample collection or handling errors (15, 16). Triplicate injections of each sample yielded a total of 3771 peptide identifications (2918 ± 73 ; CV = 2.51%, across technical replicate injections) with 3088 of these candidates being co-identified between sample sets. Extraction of corresponding peptide MS1 XIC areas was successful for a total of 3768

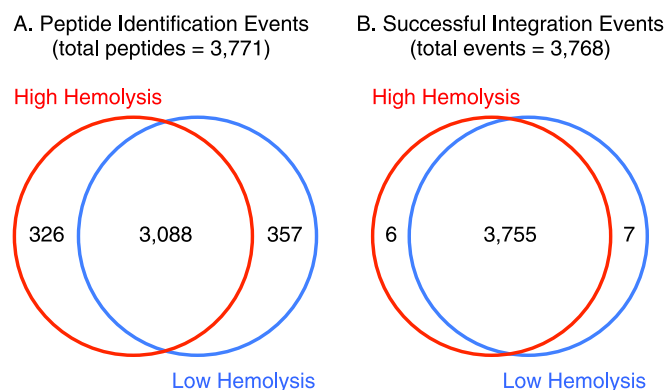


FIG. 5. Peptide identification events versus successfully integrated peptide MS1 XIC areas in comparative proteomic analyses of hemolyzed blood plasma. Two-way Venn diagrams detailing overlapping peptide identification events (A) versus successfully integrated, retention time aligned peptide MS1 XIC areas (B) across three technical replicate injections of tryptic digests derived from high and low hemolyzed mouse blood plasma. These results revealed a 17.8% increase in the number of measurable peptide events co-identified across replicate injections.

of these events (3734 ± 7 ; CV = 0.19%) and yielded a total of 3755 events being integrated between sample sets. This resulted in a 17.8% increase in measurable peptide identification to be used for differential analyses across sample sets, corresponding to 99.6% of total peptides identified between samples (Fig. 5).

Comparative analysis revealed a total of 837 peptides that were differentially abundant between high and low hemolysis

TABLE II

Top ten differentially abundant peptide MS1 XIC areas in comparative proteomic analyses of hemolyzed (HL) mouse blood plasma

Positive and negative Log₂ values denote if a peptide is increased or decreased in highly hemolyzed samples, respectively. Table II is organized as follows: (Peptide), peptide sequence identified; (UniProt ID), UniProt protein accession; (Protein Name), protein description; and (Log₂ High:Low HL), details the log₂ fold change ratios of peptide MS1 XIC abundances in high versus low hemolysis samples.

Peptide	UniProt ID	Protein Name	Log ₂ High:Low HL
R.NGNPNGEGLPHWPEYDEKEGYLQIGATTQQAQR.L	P23953	Liver carboxylesterase N	4.95
K.VNADEVGGEALGRLLVVYPWTQR.Y	A8DUK4	Beta-globin	3.50
R.EVVPRPRPGVTEATITGLEPGTEYTIYVIALK.N	P11276	Isoform 1 of Fibronectin	3.44
R.TPENFPCK.N	P20918	Plasminogen	3.35
K.AAWGKIGGHGAEGYGAELER.M	P01942	Hemoglobin subunit alpha	3.11
R.IDAPPSISVEWCR.K	A2AJX5	DENN/MADD domain containing 4C	3.02
K.VADALANAAGHLDDLPGALSALSDLHAHKLR.V	Q9CY10	Putative uncharacterized protein	2.73
K.EAETFPFNPFDLT.K	P24270	Catalase	2.70
R.DAILFPSFIHSQK.R	P24270	Catalase	2.70
R.LLGNMIVIVLGHHLGKDFTPAAQAAFQK.V	A8DUK2	Beta-globin	2.69
K.RSCLHVPCKDPEEK.K	P11680	Properdin	-1.425128464
K.IEHVVSDLDSSATLILINYIFLK.G	Q06770	Corticosteroid-binding globulin	-1.617236353
K.EEGKDEEYWLR.A	Q8R121	Isoform 1 of Protein Z-dependent protease inhibitor	-1.825693523
K.VWVYPPEKK.E	Q91X72	Hemopexin	-1.93133099
R.EGTTVAKPEATTMAMTAVPTPTSPSLSGHVANP.-	Q9CQP7	Putative uncharacterized protein	-2.395243816
R.LGADMEDLRNR.L	P08226	Apolipoprotein E	-2.700514892
K.EVEPGTLCDVAGWGVVTHAGR.R	P03953	Isoform 1 of Complement factor D	-2.813415393
K.TGTTYFEVK.E	A2AS37	Novel anaphylotoxin-like domain containing protein	-3.346243368
R.GPDEEHLGILGPVIWAEVGDITK.V	Q61147	Ceruloplasmin	-3.819258046
R.DLSSSDLSTASK.I	D3YW52	Uncharacterized protein	-8.655422482

conditions (q -value ≤ 0.05 , 22% of total identifications) (supplemental Table S5). The large proportion of differentially abundant peptides observed emphasizes the stark differences between low and highly hemolyzed blood plasma proteomes. Additionally, only ~31% of the peptides initially identified exclusively in low or high hemolysis conditions alone (341 peptides ± 22) were among this significant population (106 ± 2), further underscoring the value of comparing retention time aligned peptide MS1 XIC areas for presence/absence events. The top ten significantly increased and decreased peptides between high versus low hemolysis conditions are detailed in Table II. The majority of top peptides significantly increased in highly hemolyzed blood plasma correspond to different hemoglobin isoforms (Hba-a1, Q9CY10, Hbb-b1, A8DUK4, and Hba, P01942), a protein group comprising over 97% of the red blood cell proteome (37). The top ten peptides significantly decreased exhibited greater complexity and corresponded to proteins previously described as being localized to blood plasma, such as the copper-binding

glycoprotein ceruloplasmin (Cp, Q61147) (38) a member of the immune-associated complement system, complement factor D (Cfd, P03953) (38–39), as well as the lipoprotein scavenger apolipoprotein E (ApoE, P08226) (38–39). Additionally, top significantly decreased peptides included candidates not previously described in blood, such as the novel anaphylotoxin-like domain containing protein (A2AS37). These data demonstrate the ability of this analytical pipeline to identify an array of differentially abundant peptides between highly complex sample matrixes. These findings further highlight that differentially hemolyzed blood plasma samples exhibiting hemoglobin concentrations below the current clinical reference limits for borderline hemolysis (~0.5 g/L) (15, 40) revealed starkly different proteomes. These results support previous findings (41) that differential blood cell lysis represents an analytical variable in plasma proteomic workflows that significantly impacts sample complexity and thus, can potentially confound comparative plasma proteomic analyses. Therefore, these data further suggest that levels of accept-

able hemolysis in blood plasma samples used for proteomic studies require reassessment relative to current clinical standards.

CONCLUSION

These results provide evidence to support a facile and robust workflow for the comparative proteomic analysis of peptide MS1 XIC areas directed by retention time alignment of peptides identified by MS/MS events across samples. We provide evidence that the strategy is quantitative using a six-point dilution curve of bovine standard peptides in mouse plasma where 88% ($\pm 3.2\%$) of bovine peptide MS1 XIC areas exhibited a linear response ($R^2 > 0.9$). This strategy was shown to increase the number of peptides detectable between samples by up to 30.5%. Thus, combining “shotgun” proteomic workflows for the identification of peptides with comparison of aligned peptide MS1 features can maximize “shotgun” proteomic discovery efforts and improve comparative sample analyses.

Acknowledgments—We would like to thank Dr. Kyle Orwig for donation of the C57BL/6 mice used in hemolysis studies, Dr. Rob Helton for olfactory bulb dissections in *Homer2* knockout and wild-type mice, Dr. Jarrett Egerton for assistance in manuscript preparation, Dr. Nicolas Stewart for critical review of this manuscript, and Michael Riffle for establishing the Yeast Resource Center Experiment Public Data Repository to host the peptide search results.

* This work was supported by NIH training grant T32 HD041697 to SPG, NIH grants R01 AA016650 and R01 DA024038 to KKS, R01 DK069386 and P41 GM103533 to MJM, and R01AA016171 and U01AA016653 to CCW.

§ This article contains [supplemental Tables S1 to S5](#).

¶ These authors contributed equally to this manuscript.

** To whom correspondence should be addressed: 200 Lothrop St. BST S311, Pittsburgh, PA, 15261. Tel.: 412-648-9260; Fax: 412-648-8330; E-mail: chriswu@pitt.edu.

REFERENCES

- Wu, C. C., and MacCoss, M. J. (2002) Shotgun proteomics: tools for the analysis of complex biological systems. *Curr. Opin. Mol. Ther.* **4**, 242–250
- Neilson, K. A., Ali, N. A., Muralidharan, S., Mirzaei, M., Mariani, M., Assadourian, G., Lee, A., van Sluyter, S. C., and Haynes, P. A. (2011) Less label, more free: approaches in label-free quantitative mass spectrometry. *Proteomics* **11**, 535–553
- Nilsson, T., Mann, M., Aebersold, R., Yates, J. R., 3rd, Bairoch, A., and Bergeron, J. J. (2010) Mass spectrometry in high-throughput proteomics: ready for the big time. *Nat. Methods* **7**, 681–685
- Tabb, D. L., Vega-Montoto, L., Rudnick, P. A., Variyath, A. M., Ham, A. J., Bunk, D. M., Kilpatrick, L. E., Billheimer, D. D., Blackman, R. K., Cardasis, H. L., Carr, S. A., Clauser, K. R., Jaffe, J. D., Kowalski, K. A., Neubert, T. A., Regnier, F. E., Schilling, B., Tegeler, T. J., Wang, M., Wang, P., Whiteaker, J. R., Zimmermann, L. J., Fisher, S. J., Gibson, B. W., Kinsinger, C. R., Mesri, M., Rodriguez, H., Stein, S. E., Tempst, P., Paulovich, A. G., Liebler, D. C., and Spiegelman, C. (2010) Repeatability and reproducibility in proteomic identifications by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. *J. Proteome Res.* **9**, 761–776
- Liu, H., Sadygov, R. G., and Yates, J. R., 3rd (2004) A model for random sampling and estimation of relative protein abundance in shotgun proteomics. *Anal. Chem.* **76**, 4193–4201
- Conrads, T. P., Anderson, G. A., Veenstra, T. D., Pasa-Tolic, L., and Smith, R. D. (2000) Utility of accurate mass tags for proteome-wide protein identification. *Anal. Chem.* **72**, 3349–3354
- Prakash, A., Mallick, P., Whiteaker, J., Zhang, H., Paulovich, A., Flory, M., Lee, H., Aebersold, R., and Schwikowski, B. (2006) Signal maps for mass spectrometry-based comparative proteomics. *Mol. Cell. Proteomics* **5**, 423–432
- Radulovic, D., Jelveh, S., Ryu, S., Hamilton, T. G., Foss, E., Mao, Y., and Emili, A. (2004) Informatics platform for global proteomic profiling and biomarker discovery using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. *Mol. Cell. Proteomics* **3**, 984–997
- Schilling, B., Rardin, M. J., Maclean, B. X., Zawadzka, A. M., Frewen, B. E., Cusack, M. P., Sorensen, D. J., Bereman, M. S., Jing, E., Wu, C. C., Verdin, E., Kahn, C. R., MacCoss, M. J., and Gibson, B. W. (2012) Platform-independent and Label-free Quantitation of Proteomic Data Using MS1 Extracted Ion Chromatograms in Skyline: Application to protein acetylation and phosphorylation. *Mol. Cell. Proteomics* **11**, 202–214
- Smith, R. D., Anderson, G. A., Lipton, M. S., Pasa-Tolic, L., Shen, Y., Conrads, T. P., Veenstra, T. D., and Udseth, H. R. (2002) An accurate mass tag strategy for quantitative and high-throughput proteome measurements. *Proteomics* **2**, 513–523
- Wessel, D., and Flugge, U. I. (1984) A method for the quantitative recovery of protein in dilute solution in the presence of detergents and lipids. *Anal. Biochem.* **138**, 141–143
- Shin, D. M. (2003) Homer 2 tunes G protein-coupled receptors stimulus intensity by regulating RGS proteins and PLC GAP activities. *J. Cell Biol.* **162**, 293–303
- Phillips, G. R., Huang, J. K., Wang, Y., Tanaka, H., Shapiro, L., Zhang, W., Shan, W. S., Arndt, K., Frank, M., Gordon, R. E., Gawinowicz, M. A., Zhao, Y., and Colman, D. R. (2001) The presynaptic particle web: ultrastructure, composition, dissolution, and reconstitution. *Neuron* **32**, 63–77
- Phillips, G. R., Florens, L., Tanaka, H., Khaing, Z. Z., Fidler, L., Yates, J. R., and Colman, D. R. (2005) Proteomic comparison of two fractions derived from the transsynaptic scaffold. *J. Neurosci. Res.* **81**, 762–775
- Lippi, G., Blanckaert, N., Bonini, P., Green, S., Kitchen, S., Palicka, V., Vassault, A. J., and Plebani, M. (2008) Haemolysis: an overview of the leading cause of unsuitable specimens in clinical laboratories. *Clin. Chem. Lab. Med.* **46**, 764–772
- Sowemimo-Coker, S. O. (2002) Red blood cell hemolysis during processing. *Transfus. Med. Rev.* **16**, 46–60
- Fairbanks, V. F., Ziesmer, S. C., and O'Brien, P. C. (1992) Methods for measuring plasma hemoglobin in micromolar concentration compared. *Clin. Chem.* **38**, 132–140
- Bateman, N. W., Sun, M., Hood, B. L., Flint, M. S., and Conrads, T. P. (2010) Defining central themes in breast cancer biology by differential proteomics: conserved regulation of cell spreading and focal adhesion kinase. *J. Proteome Res.* **9**, 5311–5324
- McDonald, W. H., Tabb, D. L., Sadygov, R. G., MacCoss, M. J., Venable, J., Graumann, J., Johnson, J. R., Cociorva, D., and Yates, J. R., 3rd (2004) MS1, MS2, and SQT-three unified, compact, and easily parsed file formats for the storage of shotgun proteomic spectra and identifications. *Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom.* **18**, 2162–2168
- Hsieh, E. J., Hoopmann, M. R., MacLean, B., and MacCoss, M. J. (2010) Comparison of database search strategies for high precursor mass accuracy MS/MS data. *J. Proteome Res.* **9**, 1138–1143
- Eng, J., McCormack, A., and Yates, J. (1994) An approach to correlate tandem mass spectral data of peptides with amino acid sequences in a protein database. *J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom.* **5**, 976–989
- Kall, L., Canterbury, J. D., Weston, J., Noble, W. S., and MacCoss, M. J. (2007) Semi-supervised learning for peptide identification from shotgun proteomics datasets. *Nat. Methods* **4**, 923–925
- Hsieh, E. J., Shulman, N. J., Dai, D. F., Vincow, E. S., Karunadharma, P. P., Pallanck, L., Rabinovitch, P. S., and MacCoss, M. J. (2012) Topograph, a software platform for precursor enrichment corrected global protein turnover measurements. *Mol. Cell. Proteomics* **11**, 1468–1474
- MacLean, B., Tomazela, D. M., Shulman, N., Chambers, M., Finney, G. L., Frewen, B., Kern, R., Tabb, D. L., Liebler, D. C., and MacCoss, M. J. (2010) Skyline: an open source document editor for creating and analyzing targeted proteomics experiments. *Bioinformatics* **26**, 966–968
- Podwojski, K., Fritsch, A., Chamrad, D. C., Paul, W., Sitek, B., Stuhler, K., Mutzel, P., Stephan, C., Meyer, H. E., Urfer, W., Ickstadt, K., and Rah-

- nenfuhrer, J. (2009) Retention time alignment algorithms for LC/MS data must consider non-linear shifts. *Bioinformatics* **25**, 758–764
26. Frewen, B. E., Merrihew, G. E., Wu, C. C., Noble, W. S., and MacCoss, M. J. (2006) Analysis of peptide MS/MS spectra from large-scale proteomics experiments using spectrum libraries. *Anal. Chem.* **78**, 5678–5684
27. Storey, J. D., and Tibshirani, R. (2003) Statistical significance for genome-wide studies. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **100**, 9440–9445
28. Shiraishi-Yamaguchi, Y., and Furuichi, T. (2007) The Homer family proteins. *Genome Biol.* **8**, 206
29. Naisbitt, S., Kim, E., Tu, J. C., Xiao, B., Sala, C., Valtschanoff, J., Weinberg, R. J., Worley, P. F., and Sheng, M. (1999) Shank, a novel family of postsynaptic density proteins that binds to the NMDA receptor/PSD-95/GKAP complex and cortactin. *Neuron* **23**, 569–582
30. Tu, J. C., Xiao, B., Naisbitt, S., Yuan, J. P., Petralia, R. S., Brakeman, P., Doan, A., Aakalu, V. K., Lanahan, A. A., Sheng, M., and Worley, P. F. (1999) Coupling of mGluR/Homer and PSD-95 complexes by the Shank family of postsynaptic density proteins. *Neuron* **23**, 583–592
31. Kato, A., Ozawa, F., Saitoh, Y., Fukazawa, Y., Sugiyama, H., and Inokuchi, K. (1998) Novel members of the Vesl/Homer family of PDZ proteins that bind metabotropic glutamate receptors. *J. Biol. Chem.* **273**, 23969–23975
32. Tu, J. C., Xiao, B., Yuan, J. P., Lanahan, A. A., Leoffert, K., Li, M., Linden, D. J., and Worley, P. F. (1998) Homer binds a novel proline-rich motif and links group 1 metabotropic glutamate receptors with IP3 receptors. *Neuron* **21**, 717–726
33. Xiao, B., Tu, J. C., Petralia, R. S., Yuan, J. P., Doan, A., Breder, C. D., Ruggiero, A., Lanahan, A. A., Wenthold, R. J., and Worley, P. F. (1998) Homer regulates the association of group 1 metabotropic glutamate receptors with multivalent complexes of homer-related, synaptic proteins. *Neuron* **21**, 707–716
34. Jung, K. M., Astarita, G., Zhu, C., Wallace, M., Mackie, K., Piomelli, D. (2007) A key role for diacylglycerol lipase- in metabotropic glutamate receptor-dependent endocannabinoid mobilization. *Mol. Pharmacol.* **72**, 612–621
35. Gray, N. W., Fourgeaud, L., Huang, B., Chen, J., Cao, H., Oswald, B. J., Hémar, A., and McNiven, M. A. (2003) Dynamin 3 is a component of the postsynapse, where it interacts with mGluR5 and Homer. *Current Biol.* **13**, 510–515
36. Williams, L. M., Fu, Z., Dulloor, P., Yen, T., Barron-Casella, E., Savage, W., Van Eyk, J. E., Casella, J. F., and Everett, A. (2010) Hemoglobin depletion from plasma: considerations for proteomic discovery in sickle cell disease and other hemolytic processes. *Proteomics Clin. Appl.* **4**, 926–930
37. Ringrose, J. H., van Solinge, W. W., Mohammed, S., O'Flaherty, M. C., van Wijk, R., Heck, A. J., and Slijper, M. (2008) Highly efficient depletion strategy for the two most abundant erythrocyte soluble proteins improves proteome coverage dramatically. *J. Proteome Res.* **7**, 3060–3063
38. Anderson, N. L., Polanski, M., Pieper, R., Gatlin, T., Tirumalai, R. S., Conrads, T. P., Veenstra, T. D., Adkins, J. N., Pounds, J. G., Fagan, R., and Lobley, A. (2004) The human plasma proteome: a nonredundant list developed by combination of four separate sources. *Mol. Cell. Proteomics* **3**, 311–326
39. Omenn, G. S., States, D. J., Adamski, M., Blackwell, T. W., Menon, R., Hermjakob, H., Apweiler, R., Haab, B. B., Simpson, R. J., Eddes, J. S., Kapp, E. A., Moritz, R. L., Chan, D. W., Rai, A. J., Admon, A., Aebersold, R., Eng, J., Hancock, W. S., Hefta, S. A., Meyer, H., Paik, Y. K., Yoo, J. S., Ping, P., Pounds, J., Adkins, J., Qian, X., Wang, R., Wasinger, V., Wu, C. Y., Zhao, X., Zeng, R., Archakov, A., Tsugita, A., Beer, I., Pandey, A., Pisano, M., Andrews, P., Tammen, H., Speicher, D. W., and Hanash, S. M. (2005) Overview of the HUPO Plasma Proteome Project: results from the pilot phase with 35 collaborating laboratories and multiple analytical groups, generating a core dataset of 3020 proteins and a publicly-available database. *Proteomics* **5**, 3226–3245
40. Lippi, G., Luca Salvagno, G., Blanckaert, N., Giavarina, D., Green, S., Kitchen, S., Palicka, V., Vassault, A. J., and Plebani, M. (2009) Multi-center evaluation of the hemolysis index in automated clinical chemistry systems. *Clin. Chem. Lab. Med.* **47**, 934–939
41. Hsieh, S. Y., Chen, R. K., Pan, Y. H., and Lee, H. L. (2006) Systematical evaluation of the effects of sample collection procedures on low-molecular-weight serum/plasma proteome profiling. *Proteomics* **6**, 3189–3198
42. Cutillas, P. R., and Vanhaesebroeck, B. (2007) Quantitative profile of five murine core proteomes using label-free functional proteomics. *Mol. Cell. Proteomics* **6**, 1560–1573
43. Alcolea, M. P., Casado, P., Rodriguez-Prados, J.-C., Vanhaesebroeck, B., and Cutillas, P. R. (2012) Phosphoproteomic analysis of leukemia cells under basal and drug-treated conditions identifies markers of kinase pathway activation and mechanisms of resistance. *Mol. Cell. Proteomics* **11**, 453–466